

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CU-04 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 030940Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 993

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IS

SUBJECT: PEKING REPORTS SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: AS EXPECTED THE PRC MEDIA HAVE LINKED THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT WITH U.S.-SOVIET CONTENTION IN THE MID-EAST, NCNA ISSUED A HARD LINE ON THE CHANCES OF PEACE, BUT MORE AUTHORITATIVE CHINESE PRONOUNCEMENTS RETAIN PRC FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS EXPECTED NCNA REPORTS ON THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT LINKED THE SETTLEMENT WITH U.S.-SOVIET RIVALRY AND CONTENTION IN THE AREA. AN NCNA MAY 31 COMMENTARY ON THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS NOT SOLVED THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF THE MID-EAST
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WHICH ARE CAUSED BY THE RIVALRY AND CONTENTION OF THE SUPER-

POWERS FOR HEGEMONY AND RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A "JUST AND LASTING PEACE," WHICH IT TERMED "DECEITFUL RUBBISH."

2. ACCORDING TO THE NCNA ANALYSIS, THE AGREEMENT ONLY PRESAGES GREATER TURMOIL AND A NEW AND FIERCER RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS AND CITED AS EVIDENCE THE FORTHCOMING VISITS OF BREZHNEV AND NIXON TO THE AREA. AS IN ITS PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THE MID-EAST NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR, NCNA PORTRAYED THE U.S. AS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL GAINS AND THE SOVIETS AS FULMINATING ON THE SIDELINES OR SCURRYING ABOUT TRYING TO GET IN THE ACTION. THE ARTICLE CITED A REUTERS REPORT THAT THE U.S. "HAS BLOWN A HOLE IN THE WEB OF SOVIET TIES WITH THE ARAB STATES" AND THE SUNDAY TIMES CONCLUSION THAT EVENTS ARE TENDING TO CHANGE THE BALANCE OF INFLUENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIETS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. NCNA REPORTED THAT THE U.S.- SOVIET "BACKSTAGE BARGAINING" CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN OBSERVER FORCE EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN A JOINT U.S.- SOVIET DRAFT PROPOSAL. NCNA ALSO NOTED THAT AFTER EXPLAINING CHINA'S "PRINCIPLED POSITION" REGARDING THE DISPATCH OF TROOPS, THE PRC DELEGATE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE "OUT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE VICTIM OF AGRESSION."

4. ON THE HEELS OF THE LATEST AGREEMENT CHOU EN-LAI CABLED A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO PLO LEADER YASSAR ARAFAT ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE 12TH SESSION OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL. THE MAY 31 MESSAGE PLEDGED THE "RESOLUTE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE" BUT DID NOT DISCUSS THE PEACE ISSUE. THE CABLE, WHICH CONCLUDED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT THE ARABS WILL SURMOUNT THEIR TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES, REFLECTS A PRC EFFORT TO BURNISH ITS IMAGE AS THE MOST MILITANT SUPPORTER OF THE ARABS.

5. DESPITE NCNA'S HARD LINE OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE CHINESE HAVE ALLOTTED THEMSELVES CONSIDERABLE ROOM FOR MANEUVER ON THE PEACE ISSUE. IN MORE AUTHORITATIVE COMMENT SUCH AS CHUANG YEN'S MAY 31 STATEMENT PRECEDING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE, THE CHINESE HAVE SET FORTH CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST PRECEDE THE REALIZATION OF A "JUST AND LASTING PEACE" IN THE MID-EAST, THUS IMPLYING THAT PEACE IS IN FACT A POSSIBILITY. EARLIER CHINESE STATEMENTS IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO BLOCK A PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE CHINESE HAVE YET TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE.
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